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Mr. John J. Zakarian
President
National Conference of
Editorial Writers
1725 N St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

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Dear Mr. Zakarian,

I am responding to your letter of August 9 to the Director of Central Intelligence.

I regret that once again you have found our response to be inadequate, particularly since we honestly believed that we had addressed ourselves directly to the relevant factual issues that you had raised, namely those pertaining to the relationship of CIA to American journalists, as well as your demand that Mr. Bush divulge names of persons who have cooperated with the Agency.

In your letter you reiterate the unsubstantiated premise of "CIA's polluting effect on the flow of information", and you claim that the Agency "operates as if it were a law unto itself". The former is a vague allegation without merit; the latter misconception can handily be dispelled by reference to the existing statutes and Executive Orders, to the record of Mr. Bush's more than 30 appearances to testify at the oversight committees of the Congress, to statements by Mr. Bush with which you are familiar, to the mechanism of Presidential direction of foreign intelligence activities, and to the overall record of the Central Intelligence Agency and the entire intelligence community at the present time.

I have talked to Mr. Bush about the meeting that you have suggested. He has had several meetings with representatives